



Delta Management at Fort St. Philip (BS-11)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2001 **Cost:** \$3.2 million
Project Area: 1,305 acres **Status:** Construction
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 267 acres
Project Type: Outfall Management/Sediment and Nutrient Trapping

Location

The project is located on the east side of the Mississippi River near the crevasse (a break in the levee) that formed during the 1973 flood at Fort St. Philip in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana.

Problems

Because of the crevasse, the area has been in transition since the early 1970s. It was once an organic, low-energy system consisting of brackish-saline marsh that was in decline. It is now a deltaic environment dominated by the formation of fresh and intermediate marshes.

Recent aerial photography indicates that marsh loss has decreased considerably in the project area, and marsh building now occurs over a substantial portion of it. Many areas that historically experienced marsh loss are now becoming shallower with the introduction of river sediments.

Emergent marsh is forming throughout the area on the newly accreted mineral soils. Even though this area is experiencing a net gain in emergent marsh, this project proposes to enhance the natural marsh-building processes and increase the growth rate of emergent wetlands.

Restoration Strategy

The project will include the construction of terraces in open water habitat and the construction of seven crevasses to increase marsh-building processes.

The terraces will be planted with seashore paspalum (*Paspalum vaginatum*) and smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*).



Marshes in the BS-11 project area.

Progress to Date

The Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force approved construction funding in August 2002. Construction plans and specifications for crevasses and terraces are complete. Permitting of the proposed features is complete and land rights have been obtained.

Oyster surveys of leases that may be affected by the crevasses are complete and are being reviewed by the appraisers. If the holders of the leases accept appraised offers, construction could begin in spring 2004.

This project is on Priority Project List 10.

For more project information, please contact:



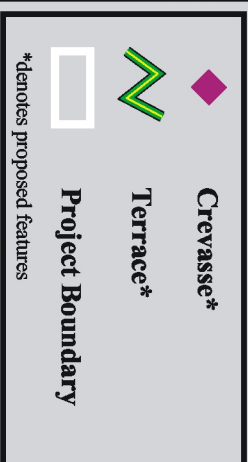
Federal Sponsor:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Lafayette, LA
(337) 291-3100



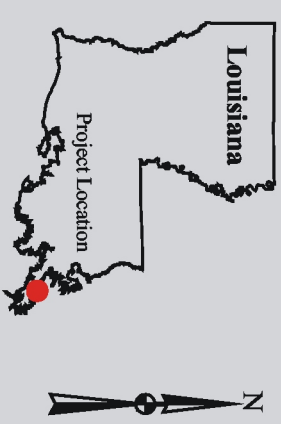
Local Sponsor:
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 342-7308



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Map Produced By:
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U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restoration Field Station

Background Imagery:
1998 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle

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